Mr. Dave Marston, L.A. to
Senator Rchard Schweiker
Room 247
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

12/27/75

Dear Dave,

It seems like mubh more than 10 weeks since we met and spent a morning talking. It was the beginning of a new kind of life for me so I remember it well. I don't yet know how long the limitations will continue. I can move around more easily, walker but not great distances. I'm getting fat from lack of physical activity. But I can and do still work about 14 hours a day. This amounts to a vacation for me.

Generally I spend about two hours before daylight just lying awake in bed and thinking. If I can't sleep I get a little rest this way. I think part of what denies me sleep, even with the prescribed pills, is concern over the consequences of all the predictable and in some cases predicted mistakes.

Yesterday I suddenly became quite tired. So I sat and read an accumulation of clippings sent me by various people from around the country. Just before going to bed I came to a batch about what you are about. It took me back to our meeting with the Senator and what I then said. It took me back in other ways, too. I intend no insult by this but as I told the Senator and as I'd said months earlier in an NYU speech, we all owe the Members candor. Jim Lesar phoned me right after I read the long Village Voice piece. "What a sense of deja-vu," I told him. His response was one word: "Garrison."

I think you will remember that I told the Senator his only reasonable prospect for success was to smash the official explanation beyond repair with the most basic of evidence, which I offered; that unless he did this he'd be spinning his wheels; and that without this he'd not get the support of other Members or the major media.

If there has been any significant support it has not been in the papers I've seen.

My advice was to prove with fact that there had been a conspiracy before traipsing off to try to learn the improbable if not the impossible, who the conspirators were. Not that I believe the initial purpose should be to prove there had been a conspiracy. But I knew enough of what the Senator had in mind to put it this way. Well, as of anything I've seen nobody who counts has been persuaded either that the Warren Report was wrong or that there was a conspiracy. I can only hope that what none of you has been quoted as saying holds other than has appeared.

Here are a few examples. The New York Times: "No one is now suggesting that these new inquiries will change the commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed President Kennedy and a Dallas police officer...if a new look at the commission's findings would not be conclusive why should it be attempted?..." On the other extreme the New Tork Daily News headline a long article that there isn't "any real evidence to support" belief in a conspiracy. I haven't seen Senator Hart quoted once and he is on the subcommittee.

On the individual conspiracy theories, all of which stem from my writing and all of which I predicted could not be successful beginning points, the Senator, from the sttribution to Texas sources, appears to have forgotten that I told him of Milteer's death several years earlier and that he would not be available as a witness. (Not that he'd have confessed.) On the Castro theory there is what makes it as close as anything can be to impossible. I did much work on this and as I believe I told you and the Senator had it not been for the doctrines of the work that followed mine it would have been part of my second book, one I'll yet complete. I regret you seem to be pursuing what so many years ago I felt I had to oppose and struggle against.

I'm sorry I wasn't more persuasive. I hope the little time you have left does produce at least enough to overcome the obstacles of which I'm well enough aware. And I'm sorry for the role in which an unnecessary failure may cast the Senator for some years.

There has never been any doubt in my mind about his sincerity or intentions. There isn't now. I can think of nothing that could mean more to me that being proven wrong. And I can't complain about his judgement when I look back on enough of my own judgemental errors. I'm just sorry that he didn't profit from mine.

I'm sorry also that both the committee and the subcommittee swung at all the outside pitches that became clear enough when the Rockefeller Commission was appointed and of all who could have run it David Belin was selected. The committee will at best fall far short of meetings it mandated on domestic intelligence. Now it has added the King assassination to its diversions with no understanding of the inhibition it has imposed on itself. The staff on this can't be serious. Any other comment would be more severe, so I won't make any.

All of this is why I had to reconsider what role I might be able to serve and recast it about late 1967 into that of the man who would have to content himself with trying to make as full a record as possible. I did not then relish the decision and I do now wish it could be otherwise. To the degree I can with my present limitations I continue it. Including by laying the foundations for more FOIA suits and several under the Privacy Act. Only one has any chance of coming to a hearing before your committee's life expires and it is not related to the work of your subcommittee. We had to give the Government a month's extension in replying to the Spectro/NAA suit in the court of appeals. In return it agreed not to oppose our motion to expedite oral argauments. But I don't think the hearing will be before you report.

If there is anything I can do to help I remain willing. I don't think I can help on the course you have taken. Where I could offer what you do not have the result would still be inconclusiveness and 12 years of that seem plenty. However, not knowing what you may have developed I can't be sure. If I can serve a useful purpose I will.

The time will come when your work is over. There may be much that you do not have to keep secret. Will it be possible to have access to what does not have to be secret? It is quite possible some of this could be helpful to me, might fit with work I have done, might mean to me what it may not have to others.

If either the committee or the subcommittee prints hearings of course I would appreciate them.

If I don't now see it as probable I still wish you the best of luck, the greatest successes. And a good year to you both.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

bcc: The Village Voice article still has him using my published work as the results of his own investigation.